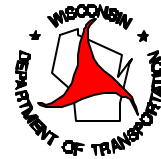
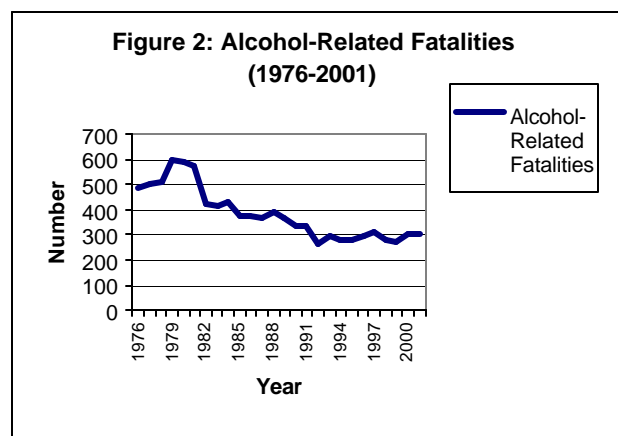
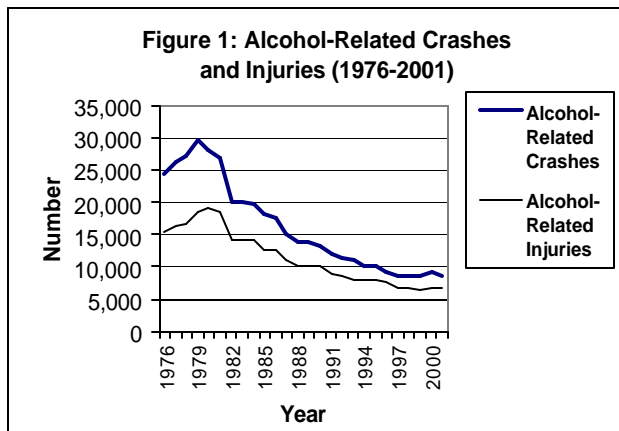


# 2001 Wisconsin Alcohol Crash Facts



In 2001, 304 people were killed and 6,586 people were injured in 8,695 alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes in Wisconsin. Alcohol-related crashes accounted for 7% of all crashes in the state, 40% of all motor vehicle fatalities, and 11% of all motor vehicle injuries. Figure 1 (below) shows the total number of alcohol-related crashes and injuries for 1976-2001. Figure 2 (below) shows the total number of alcohol-related fatalities for the years 1976-2001. Alcohol-related crashes, fatalities and injuries reached their peak in 1979, with crashes and injuries dropping off considerably due to changes in legislation (raising of minimum drinking age, OWI laws) and intensive enforcement. Note, however, that alcohol-related fatalities have remained relatively constant since about 1992, representing a continued concern.



**Definition of "Alcohol-Related" Crash:** An alcohol-related crash is one in which the investigating officer perceived that a driver, pedestrian or bicyclist involved in the crash had been drinking alcohol prior to the crash. Citations are not always written for crashes that are alcohol-related.

**Alcohol-related crashes cost Wisconsin more than \$500 million in 2001.** This represented about 26% of the estimated total economic loss in Wisconsin due to motor vehicle crashes.

**Figure 3: Estimated Costs of Alcohol-Related Crashes (2001)**

All Other Crashes  
\$1.99 billion



Alcohol-related Crashes  
\$523 million

The data for this monograph come from the WisDOT Division of Motor Vehicle Accident Database, The 2001 Wisconsin Alcohol Traffic Facts Book and the UW-Center for Health Systems Research and Analysis. For more information, please contact the Wisconsin Department of Transportation/Bureau of Transportation Safety at 608-266-0402.

## Alcohol Arrest , Conviction and Treatment Facts

During 2001, 38,731 people were arrested for Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) in Wisconsin, including 649 people who were under age 18. This compares to 36,385 OWI arrests in 1990 (representing a 6.5% increase in arrests for the period).

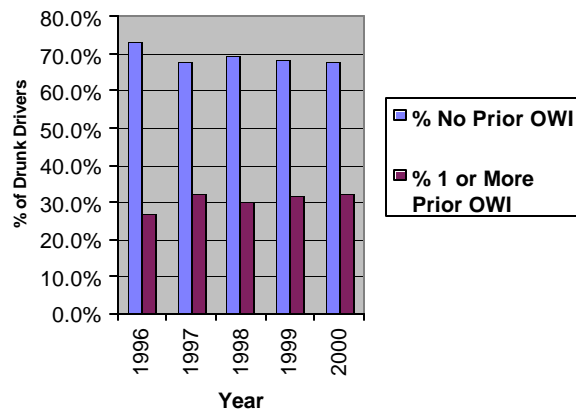
About 8% (314,811) of the total number of licensed drivers in Wisconsin have one or more OWI convictions on record since 1/1/89. For 80% (252,158) of the 314,811 drivers convicted of OWI, it was their first conviction (see box at right).

**Repeat offenders are not the chief agents of fatal and non-fatal serious injury crashes involving drinking and driving.** Most drunk drivers (typically 67% of drunk drivers) involved in fatal and non-fatal serious injury crashes have no prior OWI convictions (see Figure 4 below).

**As of January 1, 2002, the WisDOT-DMV Driver Record File showed that, since January 1, 1989:**

252,158 drivers had	1 OWI conviction
34,149 drivers had	2 OWI convictions
19,021 drivers had	3 OWI convictions
6,312 drivers had	4 OWI convictions
2,040 drivers had	5 OWI convictions
725 drivers had	6 OWI convictions
257 drivers had	7 OWI convictions
88 drivers had	8 OWI convictions
35 drivers had	9 OWI convictions
17 drivers had	10 OWI convictions
7 drivers had	11 OWI convictions
1 driver had	12 OWI convictions
1 driver had	13 OWI convictions
314,811	Total drivers had 1 or more convictions

Figure 4: Prior OWI History - Drunk Drivers in Fatal and Non-Fatal Serious Injury Crashes (1996-2000)



**During 2001, 32,919 drivers were convicted of OWI in Wisconsin.** Of these, 3,130 (10%) were under age 21 at the time of violation.

**The "typical" drunk driver is 38 years-old and male.** Of the 252,158 drivers with one OWI conviction on their driver record, 79% were male and 45% were between the ages of 25 and 39. Of the 62,653 repeat OWI offenders, 85% were male and 50% were between the ages of 25 and 39.

**Of the 37,718 OWI citations adjudicated in Wisconsin during 2001, 92% of the drivers were found guilty.**

This total included 5,082 cases where the driver refused the alcohol test; 94% of the people who refused the alcohol test were found guilty of OWI.

**Most convictions for OWI go to first time offenders.** In 2001, 63.8% of all convictions for OWI offenses went to first time offenders compared to 36.2% of convictions that went to persons who had at least one prior conviction on their Wisconsin driver record since 1989.

**Alcohol/Drug Abuse Treatment.** During the 1970s, there was a four-fold increase in the number of people treated for alcohol and other drug abuse in Wisconsin publicly-supported treatment programs. The number of clients doubled between 1980 and 1990. Since 1991, the number of alcohol and other drug abuse clients receiving any service with public funds has remained stable averaging 58,826 clients per year between 1991 and 2001. Expenditures of public funds for alcohol and drug abuse treatment have averaged approximately \$61 million per year for 1991-2001 (Figures provided by the Department of Health and Family Services).

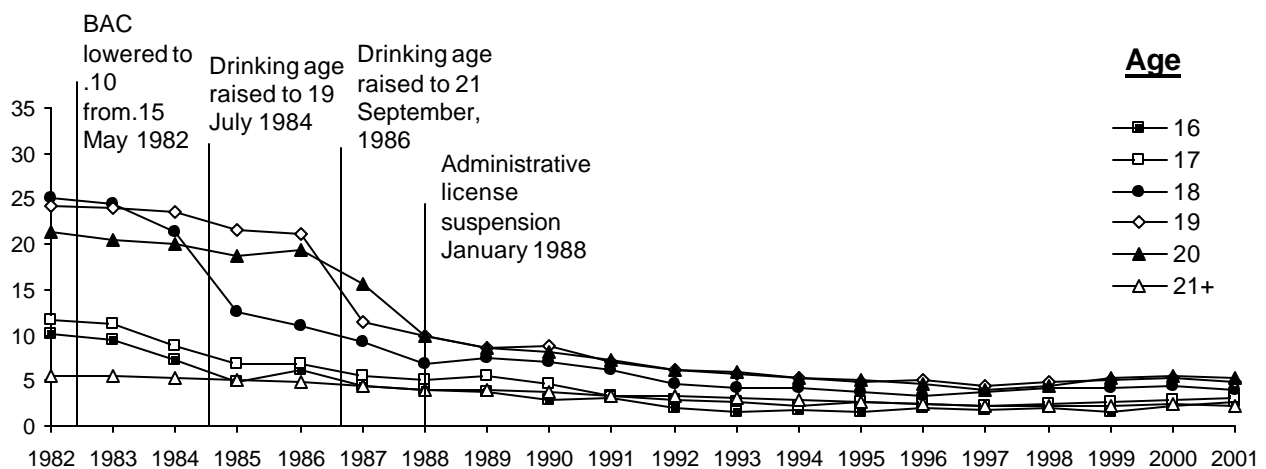
**Alcohol is a major contributor to highway deaths.** In 2001, 36% (163) of all drivers killed who were tested had an alcohol concentration (AC) of 0.10% or higher. Of these, 17 were under age 21 and 146 were age 21 or older.

**Most drinking drivers involved in crashes are older than 21.** Of the 8,702 drinking drivers involved in crashes in 2001, 1,234 (14%) were under age 21 and 7,447 (86%) were age 21 or older.

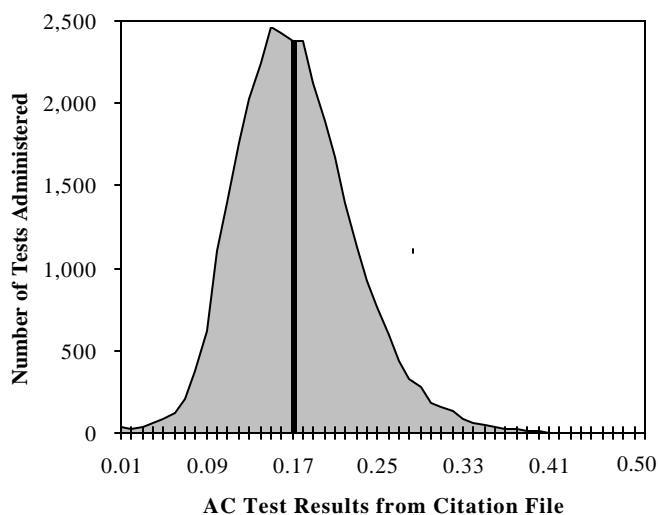
**An alarming number of younger drivers report that they drink and drive.** In the 2001 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 10.2% of 10th graders and 29.9% of 12th graders responded that they drove after drinking in the past 30 days. In 2000, 5% of the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey respondents (age 18 and older) reported that they drove after drinking too much during the past month.

*The following figure shows how tougher drunk driving laws have reduced the overall crash rates for young drivers. Note that when the drinking age was raised in 1984 and 1986, the crash rate fell dramatically, particularly for drivers ages 18-20.*

**Figure 5: Summary of Crash Rates for Drinking Drivers and Driver Age (Crashes per 1,000 Licensed Drivers)**



**Figure 6: OWI Test BAC Result Distribution (2001)**



The median BAC test result for 2001 was 0.17% for people arrested for OWI and who tested positive for alcohol in their system. In 2001, 82% of those arrested and tested were at .10% or above (see Figure 6).

#### **Wisconsin Alcohol Consumption.**

Wisconsin ranks 18th in population in the U.S. yet, when compared to other states, Wisconsin ranks 7th highest in the nation in per capita beer consumption, 11th highest in per capita distilled spirits, and 27th highest in per capita wine consumption.\*

\*Source: Distilled Spirit Councils of the U.S. (2000)

# OWI AND RELATED ALCOHOL PENALTIES (EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2003)

Conviction	Fine or Forfeiture <sup>9</sup>	Jail	Suspension or Revocation	Occupational License <sup>8</sup>	Assessment <sup>5</sup>	Points
OWI, First <sup>1,10</sup> (Per se AC ≥ .10)	\$150-\$300 <sup>6</sup> (plus \$355 OWI surcharge)		6-9 month revocation <sup>6</sup>	Immediately	YES	6
OWI, Second <sup>1,10</sup> (Per se AC ≥ .10)	\$350-\$1,100 <sup>6</sup> (plus \$355 OWI surcharge)	5 days to 6 months <sup>6</sup>	12-18 month revocation <sup>6</sup>  Vehicle immobilized or equipped with IID <sup>9</sup>	After 60 days <sup>2,3</sup>  After 12 months if 2 or more offenses within 5 years	YES	6
OWI, Third <sup>1,10</sup> (Per se AC ≥ .08)	\$600-\$2,000 <sup>6,11</sup> (plus \$355 OWI surcharge)	30 days to 1 year <sup>6</sup>	2-3 year revocation <sup>6</sup>  Vehicle immobilized or equipped with IID, or may be seized	After 90 days <sup>2,3,9</sup>  After 12 months if 2 or more offenses within 5 years	YES	6
OWI, Fourth <sup>1,10</sup> (Per se AC > .02)	\$600-\$2,000 <sup>6,11</sup> (plus \$355 OWI surcharge)	60 days to 1 year <sup>6</sup>	2-3 year revocation <sup>6</sup>  Vehicle immobilized or equipped with IID or may be seized <sup>8</sup>	After 90 days <sup>2,3</sup>  After 12 months if 2 or more offenses within 5 years	YES	6
OWI, Fifth or more <sup>1,10</sup> (Per se AC > .02)	\$600-\$10,000 <sup>11</sup> (plus \$355 OWI surcharge)	6 months to 6 years <sup>7</sup> imprisonment	2-3 year revocation <sup>6</sup>  Vehicle immobilized or equipped with IID or may be seized <sup>8</sup>	After 90 days <sup>2,3</sup>  After 12 months if 2 or more offenses within 5 years	YES	6
Causing Injury <sup>10</sup> While OWI	\$300-\$2,000 <sup>6,1</sup> (plus \$355 OWI surcharge)	30 days to 1 year <sup>6</sup>	1-2 year revocation <sup>6,8</sup>	After 60 days  After 12 months if 2 or more offenses within 5 years	YES	6
Causing Great <sup>4,10</sup> Bodily Harm by OWI	Up to \$25,000 <sup>6,7,10,11</sup> (plus \$355 OWI surcharge)	Up to 12.5 years <sup>6,7,10</sup> imprisonment	2 year revocation <sup>6,7,8</sup>	After 120 days  After 12 months if 2 or more offenses within 5 years	YES	6
Homicide While OWI <sup>4,10</sup>	Up to \$100,000 <sup>6,7,10,11</sup>	Up to 25 years or, <sup>6,7,10</sup> if one or more prior OWI-related offense, up to 40 years	5 year or 10 year revocation <sup>8</sup>  After 12 months if 2 or more offenses within 5 years	After 120 days	YES	6
Chemical Test Refusal (First)			1 year revocation <sup>6</sup>	After 30 days	YES	0
Chemical Test Refusal (Second) <sup>1</sup>			2 year revocation <sup>6,8</sup>	After 90 days <sup>3</sup>  After 12 months if 2 or more offenses within 5 years	YES	0
Chemical Test Refusal (Third or greater) <sup>1</sup>			3 year revocation <sup>6,8</sup>	After 120 days <sup>3</sup>  After 12 months if 2 or more offenses within 5 years	YES	0
Administrative Suspension for Prohibited Alcohol Concentration			6 month suspension	Immediately	NO	0
Open Container (Driver)	\$100					0
Open Container (Passenger)	\$100					0

<sup>1</sup> Generally, second offenses are counted within a 10-year period. Third and subsequent are counted within an individual's lifetime dating back to 1/1/89. [346.65(2)(b)-(e), 343.305(10)(b)3-4, 1997 Wis. Act 237- s. 9348(2f)]  
The 10-year and lifetime periods are measured from the date of refusal or violation that resulted in conviction. [346.65(2c)]

<sup>2</sup> Absolute sobriety is mandatory for an occupational license for persons with two or more suspensions, revocations or convictions. [343.10(5)(a)(2), 343.307(1)]

<sup>3</sup> Persons with 2 or more suspensions, revocations or convictions counted under 343.307(1), must complete assessment and be in compliance with a driver safety plan to be eligible for an occupational license. [343.10(2)(c), 343.30(1q)(b)3 and 4]

<sup>4</sup> If repeat offender, court may immobilize, equip with an ignition interlock device (IID) or seize vehicle. [940.09(1d), 940.25(1d)]

<sup>5</sup> Assessments of the offender's use of alcohol or controlled substances are required. [343.30(1q)(c)]

<sup>6</sup> Fines, forfeitures, jail and revocation/suspension penalties are doubled for a person convicted of OWI when a person under 16 years of age was in the vehicle at the time of the offense. [346.65(2)(f) and (2)(d), 343.30(1q)(b)4m, 343.305(10)(b)4m, 343.31(3)(f), 940.25(1)(bm)] For third and subsequent OWI offenses, fines are increased according to blood alcohol level. [346.65(2)]

<sup>7</sup> Fines, forfeitures, jail, and revocations or suspensions are doubled if a pregnant woman is in the vehicle at the time the driver committed the offense. [343.31(3)(f)]

<sup>8</sup> The vehicle owned by the offender and used in the offense may be immobilized or equipped with IID or the offender's operating privileges may be restricted to vehicles equipped with IID. [343.301(1)(a) and (2)(a)] For second or subsequent offenses, if there are 2 or more enumerated offenses committed within any 5 years such operating privilege restrictions are mandatory and all vehicles titled or registered in the offenders' name must be immobilized or equipped with IID. [343.301(1)(a) and (2)(a), 343.305(10m)] For third or subsequent the vehicle may be seized and forfeited. [346.65(6)(a)1]

<sup>9</sup> Additional fees, assessments and surcharges will also apply.

<sup>10</sup> If offense is committed while operating a commercial motor vehicle, then penalties will include a 1 year CDL disqualification (3 year disqualification if transporting hazardous materials, or lifetime disqualification for 2nd or subsequent OWI) [343.315(2)(a)(b)(c)] plus an \$8 truck driver education assessment. [349.04]

<sup>11</sup> For third or subsequent OWI offenses, fines are increased according to blood alcohol concentration. [346.65(2)(g)]

<sup>12</sup> For the scale of demerit points for all traffic violations, see Trans 101.02, Wisconsin Administrative Code, and 343.32(2); newly licensed drivers may be subject to increased demerit points. [343.32(2)(bc)]

<sup>13</sup> Application can be made by persons whose operating privileges have been suspended or revoked to drive between home and work or school. [343.10]